

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed 22 OCTOBER 2003. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration with an eye toward allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-26 are pending after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-19 and 21-24 stand rejected and the Examiner has objected to claim 20. Claim 20 is amended herein to depend from any one of claims 11-19. Claims 25-26 are added herein. A complete listing of all claims that are, or were in the application, along with an appropriate status identifier, is provided above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims". Markings are provided on claims amended in the present amendment.

Support for the above claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, drawings, and claims. For example, support for new claims 25 and 26 can be found at least at pages 3 and 6.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 20 stating that a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Applicant trusts that the above amendment to claim 20 overcomes the objection.


Priority

Applicant has amended the specification above to include a specific reference to the prior application.

Specification


Applicant has amended the specification above to include section headings, as suggested by the Examiner. The abstract is provided on a separate sheet.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102


Claims 1-19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Granberg et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,101,387). Applicant respectfully submits that Granberg fails to disclose processing "at least part of said characteristic data by said gateway to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location", as is called for independent claims 1 and 11. 

As disclosed in the abstract, Granberg is directed toward a system where a first set of services is provided to subscribers in a first location area. A second set of services is provided to mobile subscribers in a second location area. When a mobile subscriber leaves the first location area and enters the second location area, the second set of services supported by the second location area is communicated to the mobile subscriber (see Granberg, abstract). Granberg describes a mobility arrangement where service data can be transferred between visiting location registers (VLRs) using a selected one of the available messaging formats (USSD or SMS) under GSM.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites "processing at least part of said characteristic data by said gateway to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location". Independent claim 11 recites "a network service data gateway for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said gateway being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location".

As noted above Granberg fails to disclose, teach, or suggest processing "at least part of said characteristic data by said gateway to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location". As a mobile subscriber leaves a first location area and enters a second location area, Granberg discloses that a second set of services may be communicated to the mobile subscriber by a text message or voice announcement (see col. 3, lines 39-42). In contrast, Applicant's claim 1 recites processing at least part of the characteristic data associated with a communications call at a network switch by a gateway to determine a network location to access in order to obtain service data. Accordingly, in claim 1, a gateway processes data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain needed service data. Granberg does not disclose or suggest such a process for determining a network location. 

Claims 2-10 depend from and include all limitations of claim 1 and are patentable over Granberg at least for the reasons discussed with regard to claim 1.

In a somewhat analogous manner, Applicant submits that Granberg does not disclose or suggest "a network service data gateway for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said gateway being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location", as recited in Applicant's independent claim 11. Granberg is limited to disclosure of the communication of a set of services to a mobile subscriber entering a location area. Granberg does not disclose, teach or suggest a network service data gateway adapted to determine a network location to access in order to obtain service data. 

Claims 12-24 depend from and include all limitations of Applicant's independent claim 11 and are accordingly patentable over Granberg at least for the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1-19 and 21-24 over Granberg is improper and should be withdrawn.

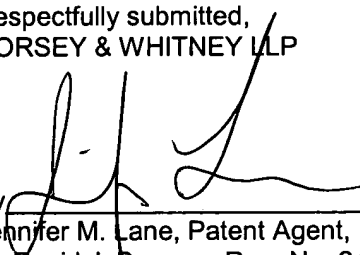
New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 25 and 26 which depend from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively and are accordingly patentable over Granberg for at least the reasons discussed above. Claims 25 and 26 further recite communication protocols not taught or suggested by Granberg.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification of such is respectfully requested. If after review, the Examiner feels there are further unresolved issues, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted,
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